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10-6790/01

24 SEP 1958

Brig. General Cecil E. Combs
Commandant
Air Force Institute of Technology
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Dear Cecil:

Thank you for your letter of 26 August 1958 with your report on the Air Force Institute of Technology.

It is always difficult to gain a balance between course offerings and field requirements, and this problem is especially compounded by recent developments in the scientific fields. The steps taken at AFIT to ensure proper balance in this regard are most encouraging.

If there is any contribution which this Agency can make to your program, we will be most happy to discuss the matter with you.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Signed

C. P. Cabell
General, USAF
Acting Director

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OFFICE OF
THE COMMANDANT

HEADQUARTERS
Air Force Institute of Technology
Air University
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

28 August 1958

Dear Pre:

As a staff officer for the Air Force--hence one of the people most vitally concerned with the quality of results obtained from our educational efforts, you will, I know, be particularly interested in this brief report of progress from the Air Force Institute of Technology. I would be grateful to you for any suggestions or criticisms which may help us to keep on moving ahead.

As you know, we do not have any regular board of trustees--and for that I should perhaps be glad--but I do feel that we need not only the active support, but the advice and counsel of the senior commanders of the Air Force, if we are to plan the educational programs of the Air Force adequately and wisely for the long haul. I earnestly solicit, therefore, any suggestions, especially from your personal experience and thought, that would help put our problems and our goals in sharper focus.

With all best wishes -

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecil".

CECIL E. COMBS
Brigadier General, USAF
Commandant

Lieutenant General Charles P. Cabell
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
The Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

10-69901

18 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Assistant, DDCI

SUBJECT: Air Force Institute of Technology

1. The 1957-1958 report sent to General Cabell by B/Gen. Cecil E. Combs has been reviewed by several members of this Division. Both from the report and from personal experience we believe Air Force Institute of Technology is a good school and fulfills a vital Air Force need. That they have had a rough road is evidenced by the curtailment of the operating budget which was only restored after Sputnik I was fired. The greatest weakness in the curriculum appears to be the lack of other than technical subjects. This has resulted in a curriculum tending towards the "trade school." We think engineering students should also have a good cross section of instruction in economics, geo-politics, international relations, and other such subjects.

2. One of our officers who was a member of the 1952 Automatic Controls Engineering Course, advises us that all sixteen graduates in his class had and still have Staff jobs. As such, they do not design black boxes or decide what particular electron tube to use; rather they work in broader fields, i.e., should satellites or ICBM's be emphasized, should long endurance electron tubes with inherent higher costs or a cheaper and less reliable tube be developed. The latter are the type of problems Air Force Institute of Technology graduates are likely to be faced with rather than "pure" engineering problems. They therefore should not be limited to a narrow field.

3. These comments may be of some help in answering B/Gen. Combs letter, which together with the report, is attached.

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Attachment - 2

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL CABELL

I have reviewed the AFIT Report and discussed it with [redacted]. I had no specific area to recommend where specialized items might be included in the curriculum which could provide the student with some technical capabilities of value to Intelligence.

I have noted in the last sentence of the suggested reply your willingness to cooperate in any way the Agency may be of help, having in mind the provision of a lecture, say from a TSS or OSI type on technical aspects of collection information.

JMC

23 Sept
(DATE)

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Remarks:

Any advice?

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1. Exec. Assistant,
DDCI

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